

cumberson “skills essays” with résumé-based applications.

Despite the initiative, many federal agencies still take as long as 200 days from the date of a vacancy to hire. While Christine Griffin, deputy director of OPM, told Senate panel last month that the OPM efforts had “systemically overhauled” the process and made the USAJOBS Web site more “efficient and user-friendly,” other experts disagreed. The dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the director of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs contended that the government continues to drives away a majority of graduate degree holders.

This failing couldn’t come at a worse time: The government will face its largest wave of employee retirements in the next five years, and critical posts in fields such as national security and science will need to be filled.

Luckily, there is a bipartisan answer. The Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2010, co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and then-Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), was passed unanimously by the Senate. The bill, intended to build on the president’s directive, requires all agencies to limit their hiring time to 80 days, inform job candidates of their statuses in a timely manner, convert to a universal résumé application and craft job descriptions as well as announcements in plain writing.

The bill failed to pass the House, thanks to lawmakers leery of affiliating themselves with “federal hiring” legislation at a time when government spending is unpopular. But it makes no sense to punish recent college graduates for the excessive spending of the past.

Mr. Akaka, who chairs the subcommittee on oversight of government management and the federal workforce, is lobbying anew for ratification of his proposed reform.

His measure deserves support. It’s time for the federal government to take the recruiting of human resources as seriously as successful private and nonprofit organizations do. Today’s antiquated hiring practices are thwarting a generation of inspired public servants in the making.

#### HONORING YASHAR ALIYEV

#### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of His Excellency Yashar Aliyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America. Mr. Aliyev is completing his term as Ambassador to the United States after five years of service. Before he accepted his assignment to come to the United States in 2006, he served as Azerbaijan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Ambassador Aliyev has worked tirelessly and effectively to strengthen the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States.

Through frequent and productive communications with the United States Congress, Ambassador Aliyev has helped raise awareness of the issues pertaining to Azerbaijan and foster mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ambassador Aliyev for his exemplary service and valuable contributions to pro-

moting bilateral relations and in extending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

#### TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chair, I come to the floor this morning to discuss an issue important to all American families living on a budget.

This Administration’s overreaching regulations placed on energy are causing increases to American families’ utility bills.

Families need certainty that their energy needs will be met and their energy costs will remain low.

Which is why, I have introduced America’s Energy Independence Act, which prevents the EPA from enforcing the Cross-State Air Pollution rule for 10 years to keep the cost of utilities low for families.

As we all know, the Cross-State Air Pollution rule finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 6, 2011, and will lead to negative increases in energy prices for families, job loss, with what benefit.

This country needs to create a stable regulatory environment, where the energy costs to families is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allowing families to have certainty that any new rules and regulations will have their best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was just recently updated in 2005.

Simply put, this regulation will have a significant negative economic impact of \$2.4 billion dollars a year, a cost that will be passed to families across the country, including the Eighth District of Tennessee.

The bottom line is that the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution rule will contribute to a reduction in energy outputs, and an increase to families’ utility bills.

At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the last action the Obama Administration should take is another multi-billion dollar regulation that kills jobs and increase costs.

That is why I would like to thank the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for including the language of H.R. 2891.

#### HONORING THE MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maine Army National Guard

Military Funeral Honors Program. The Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program offers the military honors that are now an entitlement to all honorably discharged veterans.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation’s deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans’ families.

Established in 2003, the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program serves the veterans of Maine with honor and respect. The soldiers who make up the Funeral Honors Program are of the highest caliber that Maine has to offer and deserve our recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program for their outstanding service for Maine’s veterans and their families.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAKE DENHART

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my younger constituents—Jake Denhart, who at only 16 years old has exuded a true entrepreneurial spirit. For years, Jake has been working around his neighborhood, shoveling snow and mowing lawns for small fees. He even decided to give his business a name, calling it “Innovative Solutions.” From what I understand, Jake has managed to put away almost \$20K in savings earned from the work he has done over the years. Through his hard work, he has also earned a high level of trust with his neighbors.

Jake’s hard work was also reflected on the academic front when one of his teachers at Noblesville High School, Joe Toms, nominated him to participate in the Purdue Research Park Entrepreneurship Academy, established by Purdue University. Jake was among the 50 students from the state of Indiana who was chosen to participate, based on an essay, in the week-long academy. The purpose is to provide innovative math, science, and technology-based business and life skills by having the students work in teams on a business case. Throughout the week, they have the opportunity to interact with industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs. The competing teams spend the week developing a business plan to make an “investor pitch” to a panel of judges. These students truly exude creativity, initiative, overall academic strength, and an interest in concepts and concerns that are relevant to entrepreneurship, which will carry them far as they embark on their future careers.

I am proud to represent such a young constituent who not only understands the value of money, but also knows how to save it. Jake’s success is a measure of his strong work ethic, for which I commend him. I believe it is important to remember stories like these in such trying economic times, which keep our spirits alive—not only in Indiana, but throughout the Nation.